

SQUAWKING HAWK



December 2017

Volume 1

Issue 2

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

J.C. Farr, Principal

Greetings Tam Community,

As we enter into the last calendar month of 2017, I would like to express gratitude for all of the support Tam received from parents and the greater community. Together we have made great strides toward our vision of a safe, inclusive school environment that values the unique contributions and perspectives of each student. We embraced the "Tam-Unity" motto bringing together the rich tradition of Tam High School with our whole school community. We persevered through natural disasters, challenges, and turbulent times. I could not be prouder of Tam's response to each of these challenges.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Tam High Foundation and all those who contributed to our



foundation's fundraising efforts. Through the completion of the Fall Grant Cycle, the foundation supported innovation in education, fostering the growth of educational initiatives that support the achievement of all students. I am grateful for the partnership and collaboration with THF as we continue to strive for excellence.

I would also like to thank the Tam High PTSA for their outstanding contributions to Tam. On November 28th the staff enjoyed a sit down luncheon which allowed staff to converse and enjoy an uninterrupted lunch. While this may seem fairly inconsequential, staff will attest to the joy that comes with the opportunity to commiserate with colleagues over a meal. The PTSA has embraced Tam-Unity and engaged teachers, students, and parents in efforts to create a community that we can all be proud to be a part of.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)– Is one of the newest programs at Tam. The AVID program is a college readiness system that is

designed to address students that are in the academic middle (Students with G.P.A.'s between 2.0-3.5). The new AVID elective has taken off with great success. We are seeing major improvement in the reading, writing, and organizational skills of our students. The development of skills has led to an increase in the academic performance of over 90% of our AVID students. We are proud of the work being done with the AVID program and are looking to add two additional sections of AVID in 2018. Thank you to our AVID site team for their work at changing the trajectory of our students lives through hard work and dedication.

Equity at Tam– This year many of our staff have been able to attend a variety of professional development opportunities. One of the highlights of the PD that staff attended has been a workshop titled "Beyond Diversity". This workshop, put on by the county in conjunction with the Pacific Education Group (PEG), focuses on the exploration of race through the Courageous Conversation community agreements and protocol. In 2018, we will be introducing this protocol through a new student

initiative called Students Organized Against Racism (S.O.A.R.). Approximately 25 Tam students will have an opportunity to be trained in the Courageous Conversation protocols and will be trained to lead students in conversation moving forward. Stay tuned for more information to come.

On behalf of the Tam High Staff, we wish you Happy Holidays. We hope that during this holiday season, you spend time enjoying friends, family, and loved ones. We also ask that you keep in mind that while the holidays are a happy time for some, it may be a challenge for those who may be missing someone special from their lives. Let the spirit of the holiday season move you to connect with others and bring cheer into their lives. We look forward to a prosperous 2018!

In the spirit of Tam-Unity,
J.C. Farr



Good morning Tam Community,

Drawn by over a hundred students, this project was completed to show what Tam expects as a school, how we should behave, how we should treat ourselves and how we should treat everyone else within our community. This is a short video of the words, quotes, and pictures that we believe embody the Tam-Unity spirit.

Sincerely,

TK Dahlke and the Leadership Class

Athletics

Winter sports are here! That time of the year when we huddle together to cheer for our sports teams. It's a time for community, competition and in Tam's case, triumph! Our athletes work hard every day to be their best, it is our responsibility to lift our teams up without tearing down others or our own space. Negative cheers directed at other teams or individuals is not acceptable behavior; neither is jumping on our bleachers until they break, creating a safety issue for our fans.

We want our home competitions to be hard for the opponent to play in, but that should be because it's a packed house—loud and full of energy in Tam's favor.

We can do this. Please talk to your students about how you also expect them to be respectful to the opponent, officials, and how their behavior is a reflection of their school and community.

Fans who do not meet our expectations around behavior will be asked to leave the competition. If entire sections are not meeting expectations, the entire section may be removed from the competition. Please, let's support our teams in a positive and fun manner and remember that the lesson taught in the classroom about respect, humility and pride extends to our sport competitions.

Go Hawks!



Tamalpais High School

2018-2019

Student Course Registration Time line

Dear Tam Families,

Signing up for the correct classes is an important process. Here are some important dates and information for all students registering for classes for the 2018-2019 school year.

>The 2018-2019 THS Course Guide will be posted to our website on December 22, 2017. Use this as your guide to carefully select courses for the next school year.

>Wednesday, January 24th: PTSA and THS Staff will host The ABC's of AP and Honors Classes Parent/Student meeting at 6:30 in the Student Center.

>Monday, January 29th: Current 9th, 10th and 11th grade students receive course cards in their English classes.

>Wednesday, January 31st: Electives Fair for 2018-19 10th, 11th, and 12th graders interested in learning about the different elective choices at THS.

>Saturday, February 3rd: From 8am-12pm we will have Registration and Scheduling for all incoming Freshmen. (Please look for more information to be mailed home to incoming Freshmen.)

>Friday, February 2nd: All 10th, 11th and 12th grade Course Cards are due to their student's English teacher.

>Saturday, February 3rd: Course Registration Window opens for Returning 10th, 11th and 12th graders

>Friday, February 9th: Course Registration Window closes for Returning 10th, 11th, and 12th graders.



Save the Dates!

11th and 12th Grade State Assessments

11th Graders Only: CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance), March 21-24

12th Graders: CAST Field Test (California Science Test Pilot with 12th Graders), May 21

There are no state tests for 9th or 10th graders this year.

Questions (after reading this communication)? Email assistant principal in charge of testing, Wendy Stratton at wstratton@tamdistrict.org.

The Good News!

Thanks to last year's junior class and the commitment of Tam's teachers, Tam High's participation rate (99%) exceeded those of the other two large high schools in the district! Additionally, student performance on the test increased in both Math and in English Language Arts. As our school ratings are based on improvement from year to year, we are advocating for all students to participate and perform to their best ability. Please support your student in doing their best on these tests. We are thankful to the PTSA for playing a huge role in supporting improved participation and performance on CAASP (aka Smarter Balanced Tests). Additionally, the PTSA allocates funds to provide snacks during each day of testing.

Why are these tests important?

As you may be aware, California recently implemented a new way to display school performance data. As of April, 2017, each school in the state has its own **"Dashboard"** which includes visual displays, graphs, and pie charts reflecting how well the school and like schools are meeting standards in several categories. The academic category uses CAASPP data to display academic performance. The dashboard is highly accessible and visible to colleges, the community, and the public. For more information, click [here](#).

CAASPP testing is the only school, district, and statewide assessment that effectively establishes whether or not our school is succeeding in the delivery of common core standards, and whether or not our students (in all sub-groups) are being appropriately served.

Tam High Testing

Test	Save the Dates	Do we need to sign up?	Is there a cost?	Why is this test important?	How do we prepare?	Who qualifies for accommodations?
Smarter Balanced Testing: CAASPP ELA/Math (Mandatory) 11th Graders	March 21-24	NO	NO	Our school's results are posted on the California Dashboard, which informs our school, colleges, and the broader community of the quality, and growth of our school in comparison to all other California public high schools.	Critically engage in all classes and develop Common Core associated Skills.	Students are pre-identified for testing accommodations through special education and English Learner status.
CAST Science (Mandatory) 12th Graders	May 21	NO	NO	Same as above	Same as above, but science specific	Students are identified for testing support through special education and English Learner status.
Advanced Placement Testing (Optional)	May 7-18	Registration is from 1/22 through 3/02/18. Registration forms will be sent in January.	Each exam is \$100.00 (Fee reduction waiver application due by 3/02/18)	AP exams provide students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of content covered in AP classes. Depending on results, and individual college policies, college credit may be earned.	Participation in an AP class prepares students for the test.	Students who are pre-approved by College Board qualify. Confirm eligibility with your counselor.

[Smarter Balance Test FAQs](#)

Smarter Balance [Dashboard](#) and [Youtube Video](#)

[CAST FAQs](#)

[AP Exam Dates](#)

Upcoming Events:

December 4-8 CTE Presents "You Can't Take it With You", 7pm, Caldwell Theater

December 7 & 8: Winter Art Faire, Freshman Court

December 8: Feel Good Friday

December 12: TUHSD Board Mtg., 6pm, Kreps

December 13: Holiday Instrumental Concert, 7pm, Ruby Scott Gym

December 14: Holiday Choral Concert, 7 pm, Caldwell Theater

December 18: Tuesday/Thursday Schedule (Periods 1-4)

December 19-22: Finals

December 25-January 5: Winter Break

January 8: Staff Development Day-No School

January 9: Teacher Workday-No School

January 9: TUHSD Board Mtg., 6pm, Kreps

January 10: 1st day of 2nd Semester-Monday Schedule Periods 1-7

January 15: Martin Luther King Day-No School

January 16-20: Winter One Acts, 7pm, Caldwell Theater

January 17: Site Council Meeting

January 18: Junior Night, 6:30 pm, Mt. Tam United Methodist Church

January 22-27: Winter One Acts, 7pm, Caldwell Theater

January 23: TUHSD Board Mtg., 6pm, Kreps

January 29-31: Winter One Acts, 7pm, Caldwell Theater

Tamalpais High School Information

Attendance Hotline: (415) 380-3592

Tip Line: (415) 380-3507

Counseling Department: (415) 380-3537

Assistant Principals: (415) 380-3512

Tamalpais High Website:

www.tamhigh.org

© Photographer Name



High Tides Predicted for December

Please be advised that High Tides predicted for the month of December may impact traffic and parking in flood-prone areas.

Source: Tide predictions website courtesy of NOAA. For more info, click on:

[Tides & Currents](#)

The City of Mill Valley strongly encourages residents in low-lying areas to prepare for the rainy season and all upcoming high tide events.

For more information on flooding and storm preparedness click here: [Emergency Flooding Information](#)



TAM DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

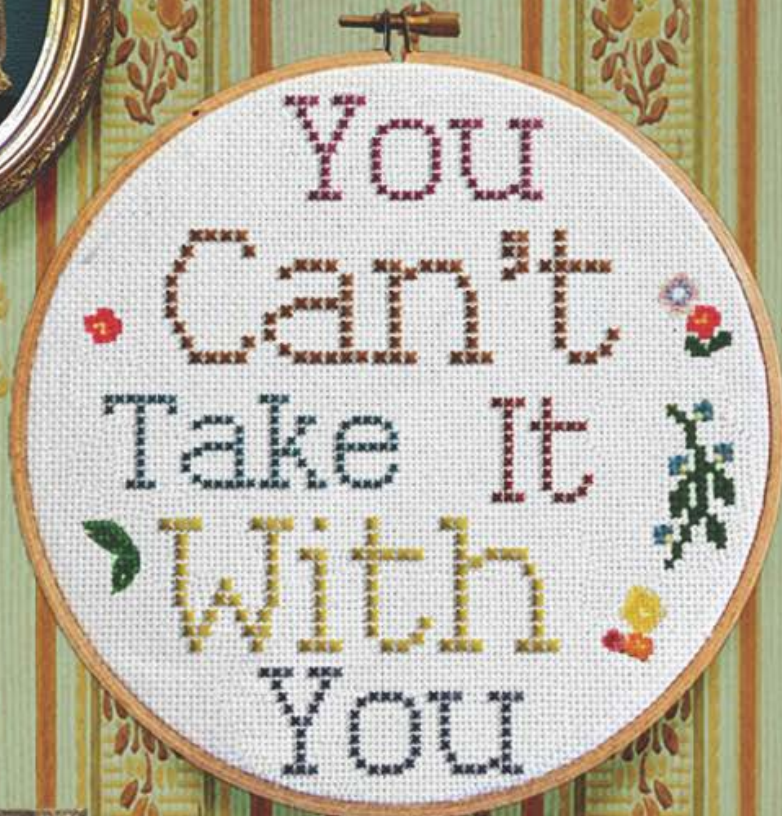
Each morning hundreds of half-woken teenagers are delivered to Tamalpais High School via the Miller Avenue drop-off zone. As the sun harshly glares into the windshields of incoming vehicles, students randomly exit from cars along the curb or from the second lane over. From 7:45-8:00 a game of *Frogger* ensues as these half-woken teens dodge traffic to make it to the curb. Drivers stop and start as they navigate speed bumps and students crossing in front of them.

This is what happens every morning at Tam High. If you participate in this routine, we ask that you observe the following protocols:

- Do not drop your student off in the middle of the drop off lanes, prior to reaching the area demarcated for pedestrians.
- Direct your student to employ the crosswalk if you are in the second lane over.
- Remind your student that the sun is in the eyes of incoming traffic and that people are distracted at this time in the morning.
- Pull all the way up in the drop-off zone to prevent bottlenecking.
- Do not drop your student off on the side of Miller Avenue (Police ticket for this), rather pull into the drop off-zone.

Thank you for keeping all of our students safe, during this potentially hazardous process.





By George S. Kaufman
and Moss Hart

Directed By Molly Noble

December 4-8
at 7 pm

Tam High Caldwell Theater

tickets online at